

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00235 071400Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /022 W

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R 071135Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2831

INFO CMDT NWC WASHINGTON DC

PRESIDENT NDU WASHINGTON DC

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

UNCLAS MANAMA 0235

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : OTRA, MILI, BA

SUBJECT : NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT TO PERSIAN GULF
AREA AND EGYPT APRIL-MAY 1976

REF : STATE 52045

1. REVISED NWC SCHEDULE REFTEL WOULD PUT GROUP INTO BAHRAIN ON FRIDAY, A HOLIDAY MORNING, AND HAVE THEM DEPART EARLY MORNING THE FOLLOWING DAY. WHILE EMBASSY WOULD STILL BE HAPPY TO SEE GROUP ON THIS BASIS, THERE IS REAL QUESTION IN OUR MINDS WHETHER SUCH A STOP WOULD BE WORTHWHILE FOR GROUP. NO RPT NO APPOINTMENTS WITH GOB OFFICIALS WILL BE POSSIBLE AND BAHRAIN PETROLEUM COMPANY (BAPCO) AND OTHER LOCAL BUSINESS OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE VISIT. BAHRAINIS AND LOCAL EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY SHUN SOCIAL OCCASIONS ON FRIDAY SO THAT WE COULD PROMISE NO RPT NO EXPOSURE WHATSOEVER TO ANYONE OTHER THAN EMBASSY AND MIDDLE EAST FORCE PERSONNEL.

2. UNDER THSES CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CAN TENTATIVELY PLAN ON MORNING EMBASSY-MIDDLE EAST FORCE BRIEFING, FOLLOWED BY NO-HOST LUNCHEON AT MIDDLE EAST FORCE OFFICERS' CLUB WHICH WOULD BE OPENED ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS FOR THIS OCCASION, FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON OF SIGHT-SEEING. IF THIS IS SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE TO GROUP TO WARRANT STOP HERE BETWEEN DUBAI AND IRAN, THEN

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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00235 071400Z

EMBASSY AND MIDDLE EAST FORCE ARE PREPARED TO TRY TO MAKE

STOP AS USEFUL AS POSSIBLE.

3. GOB'S CLEARANCE OF VISIT HERE WAS PREDICATED ON ASSUMPTION THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF GROUP WOULD BE AVAILABLE MORNING MAY 1 FOR COURTESY CALLS ON APPROPRIATE GOB OFFICIALS. UNDER NEW SCHEDULE, THIS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE AND GROUP WOULD PASS THROUGH BAHRAIN WITH NO CONTACT WITH GOB. THIS MAY POSE NO PROBLEM WHATSOEVER TO BAHRAINI OFFICIALS BUT AMBASSADOR WILL HAVE TO SOUND IT OUT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PRIOR TO RECONFIRMING CLEARANCE, SINCE A VISIT SO CONDUCTED MIGHT GIVE OFFENSE. WE WILL REFRAIN FROM REAPPROACHING GOB UNTIL NWC CONFIRMS THAT THE SORT OF VISIT OUTLINED ABOVE WOULD BE INDEED WORTH THE GROUP'S WHILE.

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